

**REBECCA CHODROFF**

NIH-Oxford Scholar 2006

Degrees: University of Pennsylvania, B.A., Anthropology and Biological Basis of Behavior,  
2005

Research Interests: Neurodevelopment



Rebecca Chodroff graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Biological Basis of Behavior in 2005. Rebecca was named to the UPenn Dean's List for all four undergraduate years and graduated with Honors. She was also inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. In addition, Rebecca contributed a significant amount of time to an organization called Active Minds at UPenn, a student-led organization that works to improve mental health among college students, including serving as Secretary in her third year and President in her fourth. Rebecca's fascination with the evolution of human cognition led her to anthropological studies of the topic and, eventually, to Koobi Fora, an archaeological site located on the banks of Lake Turkana in Kenya. Here, she attended a field school and studied the evolution of human culture through excavation of ancient settlements of Australopithecines and early Hominins. In the summer of 2003, Rebecca worked on a project entitled "LxR agonist modulator of amyloid beta formation" in the lab of Dr. David Riddell at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. Rebecca's research experience also includes work on her senior thesis with Drs. Kelly Jodan-Sciutto and Dennis Kolson at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. This research led to a presentation at the 2005 Society for Neuroscience Conference and is currently being prepared for publication. During her graduate career, Rebecca would like to "explore the molecular nuances of neurodegeneration in general by examining several traditionally different CNS diseases." She believes that the collaborative nature of the NIH-Oxford Partnership is a perfect fit for a science that is inherently interdisciplinary.